



CA city to consider softener-ban bill

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DIXON, CA — The City Council here will soon vote on the statewide softener-ban bill, AB 2270, that is expected to be approved in the full California Senate before heading to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's desk, according to a July 20 [article](#) in *The Reporter*.

The Dixon City Council will consider on July 22 the draft of a letter to Schwarzenegger asking for his support of the bill.

The bill, which passed out of the state Senate Appropriations Committee by a party line vote earlier this month, had been approved by the full state Assembly. As *WaterTech Online*[™] has [reported](#), the bill, which would amend the water code relating to water quality, gives more latitude to regional water quality review boards in California to ban water softeners in new construction and possibly mandate the removal of previously installed softeners.

Current state law allows such programs only after extensive analysis has been done by public bodies. Wastewater agencies and others have sought more control over saline discharges from many sources, including softeners, as a way of meeting regulators' wastewater treatment discharge requirements.

Dixon, which relies on land-based wastewater treatment and disposal processes, is pursuing the regulation of salinity in wastewater. The city is facing fines from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board for exceeding salinity levels in treated effluent from its wastewater treatment plant, as *WaterTech Online* [reported](#).

Dealers and manufacturers of water softeners have opposed AB 2270, urging the state, regional water regulators and municipalities to instead work with the water treatment industry in a cooperative effort to reduce saline discharges and determine the true extent of softeners' contributions to wastewater salinity